and supply of LPG cylinders to the public;

(b) if BO, what are the details thereof and many agencies are run ning at present stating the name and the time of authority provided to them, State-wise details thereof

(c) if liot^ why the private agen cies are inviting people for taking new LPQ connections and whether Governmiut have taken any action against such agencies; and

(d) if no^ the details thereof and if not, tke reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SA TISH SHARMA): (a) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using/setting up their own facjljties and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG, at market determined prices. No permission 1ST required to be obtained from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for undertaking parallel marketing. However^ they will have to obtain necessary approval under relevant Acts and Rules regarding safety; pollution control etc ; as applicable.

(b) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing System private agencies are free to aopojnt distributors and register customers; without anv involvement of Government Howevpr the State and UT Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposits by parallel marketeers for appointment of dealers anrl distributors ag well as for registration of LPG customers without making adequate arrangements for regular suonly of LPG.

**Joint venture with Chvna in Petro-leum sector**

261. M.SS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dicing his Recent visit to China, the Minister of Pet roleum and Natural Gas signed an|? MOUs for joint venture between In dia and China in Petroleum sector; uid

(b) if so, the details thereof indi eating the terms and conditions invest. ment involved therein and benefits likely to accrue to both India and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OS THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA); (a) and (b) At the conclusion of the recent visit of Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas to China, agreed mint* tes were signed between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the China National Petroleum Corporation for cooperation in Ifce oil and gas sector. Memranda of understanding were also signed between ONGC Oil India Ltd. and En-gineers India" Ltd. and their Chinese counterpart companies for cooperation in their related fields in the oil and gas sector.

**Discovery of oil by ONGC in Tripar***

282. SHRI MD. SALEM:
SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has discovered huge gas deposits of about 28 billion cubic meters jn Tripura;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this gas can be supplied $t_0$ gas based industries (viz. fertilizers, methanol or power plants) with modest gas demand at least $fo_r$ *'M* years;

(c) whether it is a tact that seve ral such proposals adequately pro cessed by the State Government of Tripura have recently been turned down by the Central Government;